

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14235 251649Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 A-01
OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SIL-01
LAB-04 MCT-01 /115 W

-----054809 251652Z /43

O R 251632Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7667

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS LONDON 14235

WASHDC BRUSSELS PASS FAA

DEPT. PASS OTHER APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CASC, UK

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PAGE 02 LONDON 14235 251649Z

SUBJECT: SITREP ON UK AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL STRIKE NO. 6

REF: LONDON 14189

1. BARRING UNLIKELY AND UNFORESEEN LAST-MINUTE DEVELOP
MENTS, THE STRIKE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSISTANTS
WILL BEGIN AT MIDNIGHT TODAY, AUGUST 25. ASSISTANTS

ANGERED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE DISPUTE ASKED THAT THE STRIKE BEGIN THIS AFTERNOON; HOWEVER, UNION OFFICIALS PERSUADED THEM TO STICK TO THE MIDNIGHT STARTING TIME.

2. IT APPEARS THAT THE EFFECTS THAT WILL BE FELT DURING THE FOUR DAY STRIKE MAY IN LARGE PART CONTINUE THEREAFTER. ASSISTANTS AT THE PRESTWICK CONTROL CENTER, STRATHCLYDE, WILL, IT IS REPORTED, CONTINUE ON STRIKE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3. THIS WOULD MEAN A CONTINUED REDUCTION IN THE VOLUME OF TRANS-ATLANTIC TRAFFIC THAT CAN BE HANDLED.

3. THE ASSISTANTS AT THE WEST DRAYTON CENTER, NEAR HEATHROW, WHOSE REFUSAL TO USE A COMPUTER HAS BEEN REASON FOR DELAYS EXPERIENCED IN RECENT DAYS, APPARENTLY INTEND TO CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO USE COMPUTER WHEN THEY RETURN FROM ALL-OUT STRIKE AT 12:01 A.M. TUESDAY, AUGUST 30.

4. IT REMAINS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT THE EFFECTS OF THE STRIKE DURING ITS FOUR-DAY DURATION. THE CONTROLLERS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS HAVE MET AND REACHED AN "UNDERSTANDING". THIS PROBABLY MEANS THAT THE ASSISTANTS WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO BLOCK CONTINUED WORK BY THE CONTROLLERS, AND THE CONTROLLERS, FOR THEIR PART, WILL NOT TAKE ON UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LONDON 14235 251649Z

TASKS NORMALLY PERFORMED BY ASSISTANTS. THIS HAS BEEN THE PATTERN EXPECTED BY THE INDUSTRY AND THE CAA. IF SO, ROUGHLY 50 PERCENT OF NORMAL VOLUME OF TRAFFIC IS POSSIBLE. A NEW EQUILIBRIUM COULD BE REACHED IF AIRLINES REDUCE FLIGHTS BY A SIMILAR PERCENTAGE. THE OPERATORS HAVE BEEN MEETING. IN THE CASE OF ONE AMERICAN CARRIER WE HAVE TALKED WITH, LONDON OFFICIALS HAVE RECOMMENDED CERTAIN CUTBACKS -- NOT ON THE ORDER OF 50 PERCENT, HOWEVER, AND FINAL DECISIONS REST WITH NEW YORK. OTHER AIRLINES WITH DIFFERENT INTERESTS MAY CUT MORE; BRITISH AIRWAYS, WHICH HAS CUT 75 FLIGHTS TODAY, MAY GO FURTHER.

5. TODAY DELAYS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CONTROLLERS ASSISTANTS HAVE BEEN LESS THAN ON SOME EARLIER DAYS, MORE THAN ON OTHERS. HOWEVER, OTHER PROBLEMS SUCH AS EXHAUSTION OF CREW TIME AND THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON DEPARTURE RESULTING FROM PREVIOUS LATE ARRIVALS HAVE ADDED TO THE DELAYS BEING EXPERIENCED BY TRAVELLERS.

6. WE CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE ONLY A MODERATE FLOW OF CONSULAR INQUIRIES.

STREATOR

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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